

Conservation Commission
781-982-2100

Minutes
October 8, 2013
Cotter Room
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Denis Bergin, Joe Feeney, Russ Forsythe, Kathy Creighton, Mike Noonan, Jerry Kelliher, Bill Stone

7:00 p.m. Old business - **Request for Certificate of Compliance, #84-455, Cape Cod Lumber, 223, 225 & 275 Groveland Street.** The board had requested a botanist's report, which was felt to be very thorough. Opened to floor, no comments, and brought back to the table.

Motion to accept the botanist's report and issue the Certificate of Compliance made by Bill, seconded by Russ, unanimous.

Ratification of emergency certification issued on 9/27/13 by Jerry for 571 Linwood Street: safety issue with tree leaning towards house with large crack in the back of it, which needed to be taken down.

Motion to ratify the emergency certification for 571 Linwood Street made by Kathy, seconded by Mike, unanimous.

Public hearing for 2013 Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan. Jim Watson, Old Colony Planning Council, prepared the draft. Denis read through the 2013 Open Space and Recreation Goals list (copy attached).

Opened to floor:

Jim Dombrowski - questioned protecting farm land. How does the town protect it, unless the land is under preservation as agricultural land? The town purchased 64 acres of agricultural land and there hasn't been an attempt to preserve it as agricultural land. There is federal and state grant money, but must be preserved as agricultural land. There is only a small amount of land on the dairy property you can do anything with; the rest of it is wetlands. A farmer could file for grants for property if it is preserved. There had been interest in grazing a young herd in Abington. Denis - if there is agricultural restriction, it would be out of Conservation's hands. There are a lot of wildlife there, as well as community gardens. J/Dombrowski - 70% of land is classified as wet soil. You are limited in what you can do there, but agriculture would be compatible. There had been an NOI filed to return it to agricultural usage and mow it. The Town owns about 30 acres in Rockland. Suggested rail trail system in sewer bed area.

Joe – re Diane Circle – it would be great to connect trails with Brockton. J/Dombrowski - a lot of it is in the floodplain and classified as wetlands.

Linda Demeo, 9 Diane Circle - why wasn't it ever developed? Joe – they would like to see walking trails. J/Watson – they would like to develop recreational uses in the area. J/Dombrowski – there are FEMA floodplain issues in that area. A ball field would be a good idea. J/Feeney – thought it would be good to be able to go from one side to the other over brook. L/Demeo – there are some informal trails, but not to go from one side to the other. Kathy – board has to decide where they want to develop a plan. J/Feeney – would rather focus on connecting two areas with bike or walking trails, rather than buy large properties.

Bruce Hughes, 69 Randolph Street – interested in safe bike trails. He and his wife have used the Rockland trails. It wouldn't take much to connect with the Rockland trails. J/Feeney - he is working on this with Rockland Town Administrator. B/Hughes – serves on the Planning Board and disclosed that he works with J/Watson at OCPC, but is here as a citizen. They enjoy riding bikes. J/Dombrowski - a lot of wetlands would have to be altered to do bike trails by Diane Circle. They could vista prune. He had information on rail trail and submitted it to board. Old sewer beds would be a great area for a trail.

D/Bergin – mentioned work to be done on Memorial Arch and on bridge.

K/Creighton – re Ames Nowell, wasn't in favor of camping there. M/Noonan - park is closed at night. K/Creighton - does the board want to encourage that use there? A formal camp program would be good, not people wandering in. Island Grove was mentioned - people picnic, but it closes at night. Most of funding has been cut for Ames Nowell. Swimming would be okay, if there was funding for life guards.

J/Watson - asked everyone to mark up the goal sheet with any comments. He reviewed the areas designated on the map and added comments from earlier map.

B/Hughes - re Southfield - changes are being proposed to give more local control, which would require legislative changes. Southfield has its own zoning.

J/Dombrowski - sewer beds off Charles Street are in an open area; could be practice fields, fairly level land, plenty of area for parking. Could use it for snow dump area and practice area.

Easement from behind the Library to Hancock Street mentioned. There had been neighborhood opposition for formal connection. J/Dombrowski - there is a trail behind the Lobster Barn.

J/Dombrowski – mentioned land off High Street - this would be good for senior housing, rest could be given to conservation, recreation.

L/Demeo - how would plans affect Diane Circle neighborhood? J/Feeney - neighbors can bring suggestions to board for this area. Wants to have board discuss generating fees for implementing some of the changes they would like to see.

K/Creighton - how and where do they apply for grant money? D/Bergin - suggested board review this and put it on the next agenda.

J/Dombrowski - mentioned Hunts Pond Dam - needs restoration work.

J/Watson – suggested looking at 2006 recommendations and decide what's important. Open Space hearing continued to October 22nd.

K/Creighton – brought up possible violations on 275 Chestnut Street property. There are backhoes on it. It was suggested that a cease and desist be issued. Work is being done around pond. Motion to issue cease and desist made by Kathy. Denis suggested Jerry and Bill go out and take a look first.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. made by Jerry, seconded by Russ, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst